



Twin Cities Chapter

Quarterly Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2008 Volume 6, Issue 4

Upcoming Events/Monthly Meetings

18 November: Interactive Forum with Native Plant Professionals plus Native Plant Seed Exchange.

Reminder: A reminder that we have switched our monthly meetings to Wood Lake Nature Center, 6710 Lake Shore Drive in Richfield. Wood Lake Nature Center is located just south and west of the intersection of W 66th St and Lyndale Ave S in Richfield, Minnesota. Website for directions to Wood Lake Nature Center: www.woodlakenaturecenter.org or access the MNDot site for construction information at: <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/projects/crosstown/>

Questions about how to design a native plant garden on a small lot? Problems with managing an established native garden? Would you like to grow from seed but don't know how? Join us at our Wild Ones meeting for answers to many of these questions. Molly Rosenberg, Designer, Molly's Gardens; Carmen Simonet, Landscape Architect; Nancy Schumacher, The Vagary; and several experienced native plant gardeners will be on hand to help you plan ahead for next year's growing season. Refreshments will be served. Free /open to the public.

Seed Exchange: Bring seeds for exchange in labeled envelopes. **Officer Election** (President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer). Interested in a position! - Contact Roberta Moore (Mylesmom@charter.net).

21 February: Thumbs Up For the Environment: Native Landscaping for Clean Water

Wild Ones 2009 Spring Expo: Saturday, February 21st, 2009, 8:45 am–4:30 pm
Radisson Hotel Roseville, 2540 Cleveland Ave N, Roseville, MN

Wild Ones 8th Annual Spring Expo partners with the award-winning local “Blue Thumb—Planting for Clean Water”: will highlight the importance of landscaping with native plants to protect the quality of our lakes, rivers and ground water. Learn how native gardens offer an attractive, low-maintenance and eco-friendly alternative for our landscapes. Full day event includes keynote speakers, workshops, exhibit hall and buffet lunch. Wild Ones members \$35/non-members \$40. Pre-registration only by February 13, 2009. Register early to guarantee your seat at this popular annual event! For information on the Expo, email to: WOExpo@gmail.com, call 612-965-5510, or visit our web site: www.for-wild.org. For information on the Blue Thumb Program, go to www.bluethumb.org.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!! The Expo is a huge undertaking for our organization. If you are interested in assisting, contact Marty Rice via email jcrnfr@msn.com at or by phone at 952-927-6531.

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Meeting Notes

September: Strategies for Reproducing Native Plants in Your Garden Through Division, Transplanting, Seed Collection and Germination

(Heather and Brent Holm) Our presenters this week were a couple that purchased a two-acre property after moving back to Minnesota from the east coast. They have been restoring their property with native plants for the last several years and have turned their property into a 'mini arboretum'. Brent began the presentation with reasons one propagates native plants. Saving money is one of the obvious measurable benefits. On a deeper level, a profound understanding of the life cycle of native plants can be gained. Once the seedlings are ready for planting, experimenting with optimum plant locations can help you gain insight about not only your yard's microclimate, but also unique characteristics for each species. And what better way to spend the winter than preparing your seeds for spring! There are additional benefits with local seed collection. Local provenance and adaptability help ensure the plants will survive. By collecting your own seed, you can choose the unique plant characteristic - a specific color variation or a particularly vigorous plant. They recommend monitoring the seed ripening of different species, since timing the seed collection can be difficult with certain species. A word of caution about harvesting from the wild: leave more than you take; and never take rare plants.

Each native plant species has specific methods that work for propagation based on flowering time and seed dispersal under natural conditions. For instance, woodland plants are typically dispersed by ants in the spring. Thus, treatment must mimic the ants' natural behavior toward the seed. There are several classes of germination techniques that replicate the natural cycle. Cold stratification involves 90 days at 34-40 degrees Fahrenheit in the refrigerator or over-wintering outside. Early ripening woodland plants require a warm moist period, cold, then warm moist again. This replicates the summer-winter-spring season change required for proper germination. Annuals require only warm temperature of 70 degrees for 4 weeks to begin germination. Many species with small seeds have light requirements for germination. Usually seeds the size of a grain of salt or smaller are sown on top of the soil, watered and often covered with a sprinkle of coarse sand. Heather and Brent also warned of obstacles while trying to propagate plants. Chemical inhibitors are sometimes found in fleshy fruit such as Jack-in-the-pulpit. In such cases, the pulp must be removed and the seeds washed. Hard seed coats require scarification (scratching of the seed coat with sand paper for 10-15 seconds or nicking with a knife, to allow moisture in). Legumes are well known for their scarification requirements. *Baptisia*, milk vetch, prairie clover all required scarification of the seed and soaking the night before they are sown. Some native plants will not tolerate dry storage, but have to sown fresh, such as Dutchmen's Breeches and wild ginger for example.

Species Specific Propagation Techniques: Woodland Plants

SPECIES	DIVISION	SEED	NOTE
<i>Dicentra cucullaria</i> Dutchman's Breeches	Dig shallow bulbets in summer after dormant; pot or replant 1-1.5 inches deep. DO NOT DIG IN FALL, for plants resume growth when cool.	Ant dispersed. Collect when black and sow immediately. First leaves show after second year.	mark the location. Do not dig in fall.
<i>Smilacina stellata</i> False Solomon's Seal (Starry Solomon seal)	Dig rhizome early in fall break off 2-4 inch section with roots and replant 1 inch deep; repeat every 3 years.	When berries are ripe (red; striped in starry Solomon seal). Plant immediately. Leaves emerge 2 nd year.	mark the location
<i>Caulophyllum thalictroides</i> Blue Cohosh	Divide woody rootstock in spring or fall; leave 2-3 eyes per section	Harvest seed when blue. Remove flesh, wash; sow immediately. OR scarify and soak. Leaves emerge 2 nd -3 rd year.	Mark the location.
<i>Arisaema triphyllum</i> Jack in the Pulpit	Divide corms in fall after foliate withers.	Collect seed when red. Remove pulp; wash seed.	Wear gloves (skin irritant)
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SPECIES	DIVISION	SEED	NOTE
<i>Asarum canadense</i> Wild Ginger	Divide clump with shovel late spring/early fall.	Collect when fruit begins to split in spring (flower is brown and withered and seed sticky) Clean and sow immediately in late spring. If sown in pots keep, watered and fertilized; transfer to larger pots in fall. OR place in damp	
<i>Actea (pachypoda/rubra)</i> Baneberry	Division is difficult due to swollen root stock	Collect seed as fruit is turning red or white (depending on species). Squish seeds out (4-8 seeds per berry). Wash and sow immediately	No dry storage
<i>Stylophorum diphylllum</i> Wood Poppy Celandine Poppy		Collect before spiny seed pods crack open or bag pods to capture seed. Sow immediately. Flowers the 2 nd year.	No dry storage.

Species Specific Propagation Techniques: Prairies Plant

SPECIES	DIVISION	SEED	NOTE
<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i> Harebells		Collect when capsules start to turn brown. Cold dry stratification for 90 days. Broadcast on soil surface in spring. Needs light.	Difficult to collect. Capsules ripen quickly and
<i>Amsonia tabernaemontana</i> Blue Star Flower		Collect when long bean-like capsule turn yellow in fall. Mix in damp sand in plastic bag	
<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i> Butterfly Milkweed	Do not divide due to taproot	Collect when pods are cracked open. Remove down; cold stratify in fridge in damp sand for 90 days. Broadcast on soil surface in spring when soil is warm.	Plants self seed; transfer in spring.
<i>Dalea purpurea /petalostemum purpureum</i> Purple Prairie Clover		Collect 1 month after flowering. Ripe seed are dark. Scarify and soak seeds. Direct sow immediately after scarification. Leaves appear second year.	Mark location.
<i>Desmodium canadense</i> Showy Tick Trefoil		Collect when sticky seedpods turn brown. Pry open pods remove seed; scarify and soak. Sow immediately after scarification. OR cold moist stratification for 10 days then sow.	
<i>Liatris spp.</i> Blazing Star	Corm-like roots can be dug and separated in fall.	Collect when fluffy. Cold stratification in fridge for 90 days in damp sand. Sow when soil warms.	Do not disturb germinating seeds.
<i>Echinacea spp</i> Cone flowers		Collect when dark, seed is creamy white/ cold moist stratification for 90 days. Sow in spring	Wear gloved and cut in half with
<i>Baptisia spp.</i> Indigo		Collect when pods are brown/black. Sow dry in flats and place outside for winter. Water in spring when warm	Slow grower
<i>Amorpha canescens</i> Leadplant		Collect when dark grey. For immediate sow: scarify and soak. OR broadcast seed in pots and place in garage/shed until spring.	
<i>Astragalus crassicaarpus</i> Canada Milk Vetch		Collect when pods turn dark brown. Store dry in fridge 90 days. Scarify seed/soak overnight and sow directly in garden 1/2 inch deep when soil warms in spring.	
<i>Vernonia virginicum</i> Culver's Root	Difficult to divide due to deep roots	Collect when fluffy. Cold moist stratification for 90 days. Broadcast on soil surface in spring.	

August: National Wild Ones Conference. In late August, five Twin Cities Wild Ones members attended the national WO conference at our new headquarters---the WILD Center---just outside of Appleton, WI.

It's a lovely former home which is being converted into offices, meeting rooms and a nature center---a very special home for us in a great location. Over the next few years the existing lawn and adjacent 12.5 acres of prairie, savanna, woodland, wetland and edge of a shallow lake will be undergoing native landscaping.

Neil DiBoll of Prairie Nursery in Westfield, WI was the keynote speaker at Sunday morning's outdoor breakfast. His topic: the Future of Native Landscaping, and no one can make a better case than Neil, one of the early people in the field (no pun intended). Other programs included talks on favorite forbs and grasses, woodland landscaping, and birds, bugs, butterflies. Heather Holm, John Arthur and Vicki Bonk won prizes for their excellent photography in the photo contest---a big honor as this year's contest had the largest number of entries ever.

It's truly a big step for Wild Ones to now have official headquarters at this lovely facility with such diverse terrain. If you find yourself in the area, stop in for a visit. It's a marvelous work in progress.

From: *Marty Rice*

Gardener's To-Do List (November, December, January)

- * Fall is a busy time of year. Just a few chores done now will pay off in a tidy garden come next spring, and that means less work before you get in there and start digging in the dirt again.
- * Last call for weeding. Remove tough perennial weeds and you'll thank yourself in the spring. Throw away any seed heads, also any quack grass or bindweed (they may continue to grow in your compost pile); the rest can be composted.
- * Cut back perennials if you find their yellowed or frost damaged foliage too unattractive; though if they're not diseased you can leave them upright to help trap insulating snow and provide shelter and forage for wildlife.
- * Clean and organize your garden tools, including draining garden hoses and sprinklers.
- * Sketch your garden for winter-time planning for expanding your gardens. Try to find room for a rain garden!
- * Prairies may be cut or burned either now or in the spring.
- * Apply winter mulch as needed once the soil begins to freeze, or by late November. Most natives should do fine without this.
- * Add compost to newly planted perennials as you put your garden to bed for the winter.



Presidents' Message - Roberta Moore, Current President



Dear WO Members,

The past two years as president have been a great experience for me. It has been enjoyable getting to know more about you the members and in seeing the growth and changes that we have made as an organization.

Things have also been changing in my life. As a result I'll be stepping down from the position this next year. I will however, continue to participate in Wild Ones as I strongly believe in the message the organization brings to our community.

This also brings an opportunity for someone new to step in and take the reins. If you are interested, please contact either Marty Rice (952-927-6531) or me (email under meetings above). We can give you the low down on what the job entails

Thanks for a wonderful two years!

Roberta

Book Review, Internet Info, You Name It!!

Editor's Note: Interesting book reviewed by Heather Holm and great web links from Lisa McDonough.

I just received as a gift a new book on propagating native trees, vines and shrubs from seed. The title is *Growing Trees From Seed: A practical guide to growing native trees, vines and shrubs*; Author Henry Kock with Paul Aird, John Ambrose and Gerald Waldron Published by Firefly Books Ltd., Buffalo, NY in 2008.

The chapter titles are Seeing the Trees in the Forest, Searching for Seeds, Seeds to Seedlings, Beyond Germination, Restoring the Landscape, The Woody Plants, Invasive Species, Seed Dispersal Calendar, Woody Plant Seed Treatment Guide. There are very good pencil drawings of seed capsules and seeds for each species along with detailed description and cultural requirements, and exotic species alerts. Also a section of photographs.

From: Heather Holm

The Minnesota Department of Transportation has plant information I have found very useful. For each plant in their database the information is organized into nine sections plus some have additional comments. Just one example of how it is different from other plant information resources I have used is that under their "Plant Community" section it gives the plant's preferred orientation (east, west, north, south). I have a really tough area in my yard and many plants failed there, even though I selected only plants labeled for dry soil.

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I have started selecting plants listed as drought tolerant and preferring a community with south or west orientation and xeric soil by using MN/DOT Plant Selector and now I'm having better results. Here are the links:

Instructions for using the Plant Selector Program. <http://plantselector.dot.state.mn.us/Instructions.html>

Brief introduction and a link to enter the Program. <http://plantselector.dot.state.mn.us/MainFrame.html>

From: *Lisa McDonough*

Isle Royale Botany Workshop - by Julia Vanatta

There are some places in this world that are simply magical -- not because of anything man created, but because man has somehow managed to leave well enough alone, letting nature takes its course.

Late this spring, just before the summer solstice, I had the good fortune of participating in a botany workshop on Lake Superior's Isle Royale, enjoying the artistic hand of nature in a pristine boreal forest.

The workshop began in a classroom in Houghton, Michigan, where our instructor, botanist Janet Marr, taught us the basics of using a key for plant identification.

Entering the class as a novice in plant biology, these were difficult but fascinating lessons. It would have helped, of course, if I had actually purchased and studied the recommended reading material before my arrival! In the classroom and later in the field, our primary tools were a hand lens and Gleason's Plants of Michigan, A Field Guide. I learned a great deal more than I imagined about plant groups; flowers and inflorescences; leaf shapes, surfaces and venation; plant forms and plant families.

There were thirteen participants in our group, and the next morning we all boarded the Ranger III for the six hour boat ride out to Rock Harbor. Isle Royale National Park is also an International Biosphere Reserve, allowing for both the study and protection it deserves. The main island is about 44 miles long, 8 miles at its widest point, with over 400 smaller islands. It is home to over 300 moose, three packs of gray wolves and 100 nesting pairs of Common Loons, among many other mammals and birds.



During our stay, two moose cows with calves roamed around in the shelter of Rock Harbor, completely oblivious to people. In the quiet of the evening we could hear the loons in Tobin Harbor. All of our meals were served outside of a simple shelter where Janet's husband, Bob, prepared

mashed potatoes and meatloaf, lasagna and other tasty treats using only camp stoves. A red fox kept close

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watch over our food. With the exception of some carts and a small tow tracker in Rock Harbor, there are no wheeled vehicles, nor are there any pets, cell phones, television or internet service for visitors on Isle Royale.

We spent three-and-a-half days on the island, using the hand lens and key to study and identify plants within hiking distance from our base camp. The seasonal blooms we normally see in mid to late May were at their peak during our visit. We also went by boat out to Raspberry Island, where we studied plant life in a large, sphagnum moss bog and forested area. With some debate, we were generally able to find the right clues to accurately identify most specimens.

The diversity of plant life on Isle Royale is breathtaking. Janet led us on narrow paths, stopping to study each new plant, looking for specific characteristics that would help us become more comfortable with the key. She had special permission to occasionally pick a single flower for our close examination. A few eagle eyed spotters looked for all the different orchids, while the remainder of us just marveled at the abundance of flowering ephemerals. It is difficult to pick any favorite, but those that stand out in my mind today include the Calypso Orchid, Twayblade Bog Orchid, Bogbean, Sundew, Rosy Twisted-stalk Solomon Seal, Butterwort, Northern Paintbrush, Three-toothed Saxifrage, Goldthread and Twinflower, plus all the fungi, mosses, ferns and lichens. I also enjoyed the natural habitat of more common natives, such as Sarsaparilla, Big-leaved Aster, Bunchberry, Thimbleberry, Blue-bead Lily and Pussy-toes, all of which grew throughout the area. There were moments when I was so caught up in the overall depth and textures of all the decaying logs and ground cover that I was no longer interested in specific plants.



My visit to Isle Royale changed me. Ever since my return I have been reexamining my own gardens with visions of creating plant communities to mimic nature's hand, thus allowing me to revisit the magic of the island in my own back yard. Thank you, Wild Ones, for informing me of this workshop.

By the way, registration is currently open for next year's class (15-20 June 2009).

Featured Native Plant: Butterfly Weed

Common Names: Chigger-weed, Pleurisy Root, Canada Root, Indian Posy, Orange Root, Swallowwort

Scientific Name: *Asclepias tuberosa*

Family Name: Milkweed (Asclepiadaceae)

IDENTIFICATION

Habitat: In open places (often on sand) - dry fields, roads, waste places.

Height: 1 to 3 feet

Leaves: Alternate, stalkless, fuzzy, medium green leaves which are shaped like dagger blades (about 4" long and seldom over 1" wide). Leaves are occasionally opposite along the upper part of the stem.

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Flowers: Red-orange, flat topped 3 to 5 inch flower clusters (umbels) arise where the leaves join the stem. There are up to 25 individually stalked, small (1/3") flowers. The petals of each flower are fused together forming a crown with five nectar cups each with incurved horns (nectar is secreted at the bottom inner surface of each). Also present are Y-shaped pollinia (pollen sacs), which can hook onto the leg of visiting insects. Flowers bloom in the summer (July through September).

Fruit: Flowers mature into upright, reddish, smooth, usually finely hairy seed pods (about 6 inches long and less than 3/4 inches thick) with tapered ends. Usually fewer than 1 flower in 100 matures into a pod. Should you want to collect these, bag the seed heads, allow pods to dry, break open and collect.

Overall Characteristics: Large, white, fleshy, woody, knobby taproot and substantial tuberous roots, unlike many milkweeds that have rhizomes. This is the only milkweed with alternate leaves and clear sap.



GARDEN TIPS

Plant Hardiness: Zone: 3 - 8

Sun/Shade Needs: Full sun to light shade.

Soil Needs: Well drained, evenly moist soil.

Planting: Spread: 6 to 12 inches. Plant 12 to 24 inches apart

Propagation: Moist stratify seeds (3 months at 40 degrees F). Seedlings quickly germinate in the spring when temperature is above 75 degrees F. Sprinkle seeds on prepared soil, lightly rake to cover, tamp and water to ensure good seed-soil contact, thin seedlings as needed. If start inside in winter, transplant when second set of true leaves appears to avoid injuring taproot. Flowers in 2 years. Very hard to divide due to deep taproot. Can take root cuttings in late winter. Cut 2 inch sections of the rhizome, each with at least one bud and then plant with buds 2 inches below the soil surface. Keep the soil slightly moist while young plants are becoming established, but do not over water, especially in cool weather.

Care: Easy. Quite drought tolerant. Mulch the soil to conserve moisture, reduce weed problems and to protect plant in the winter. Tends to rot if soil remains wet during the winter. Emerges late in the spring so be patient and don't dig up the area by mistake. Remove faded flowers in early summer to encourage re-bloom in late summer, prolonging the flowering season and giving the plant a pleasant shrubby appearance. May self sow. Removing seed pods will keep it in check.

Companion Plants: Leadplant, Purple Prairie Clover, Wild Bergamot, Purple Coneflower, Blazing Stars, Showy Goldenrod, and Lance-leaved Coreopsis.

Friends & Foes: Attracts butterflies (in particular Gray Hairstreaks and Monarchs). Aphids can be a problem. Let the lady bugs take care of aphids as insecticides can harm visiting butterflies. If that fails, spot spray with insecticide soap, avoiding caterpillars. Poisonous to livestock. Deer resistant.

NOTES

Current Use/Interest: This plant contains cardiac glycosides which is toxic in large amounts.

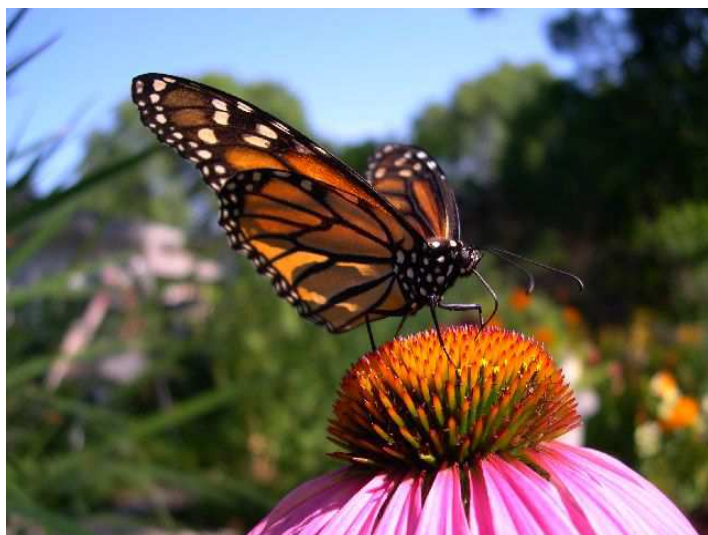
Historic Use/Interest: Native Americans and European settlers used the fragrant brittle roots both for food and as a remedy for pleurisy and other lung diseases. Large doses were sometimes used as a purgative. Fibers from stems used for making ropes and weaving a coarse cloth. Red dye has been used on baskets and textiles for coloration

From the Brown Thumb



It is with some sadness that I feel the necessity of reporting that a long-standing love affair of mine is over. I'm not sure how this actually came about. I think it was a gradual slippage of affection on my part, until I finally realized that the chemistry that had once existed between us was no longer there. Let me try and explain this turn of events. When boulevard gardens first started appearing in our neighborhood I spent many an hour walking through the area looking at the interesting gardens that were sprouting up everywhere. My attention was immediately grabbed by the purple coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*) which seemed to be the darling of every gardener. This large headed flower, with its magnificent drooping purple petals just called out for you to notice it. And indeed I did and was captivated. But as additional summers passed and my knowledge of native plants grew, I felt a decline of enthusiasm. First came the question of whether this was really a "native" in the strict sense of the word. The initial test that needs to be passed in order to qualify for this status is that the species must have been in this country prior to the arrival of the colonists. While this plant meets this standard, the second stricter standard - that it was native to our area - is not met. *Echinacea purpurea* really had never made it to Minnesota on its own prior to our arrival. It's found in the neighboring states of Wisconsin and Iowa. Close but not quite here. Of course it is now ubiquitous thanks to lots of people who like me think (or thought) it was a wonderful plant. There are two other so-named purple coneflowers that can be added to the mix. One *E. pallida*, also known as the pale purple coneflower, hovered near our borders in the same neighboring states. The second *E. angustifolia* may come closest to making the grade as it was and is found in southwestern Minnesota and to the west and south in all of the plain states. But is that really any nearer to us than Wisconsin? So if one is careful when acquiring this plant, you could find a Minnesota native, even if it a prairie native and was never endemic to the Twin Cities area.

Not being overly picky about my "natives"; the fact that the flower was not so in the strictest sense of the definition did not overly concern me. I believe it may have been the plethora of cultivars that in truth started turning me away. I could not accustom myself to seeing such a variety of colors - orange, white, red - whatever hue you wanted I am sure this plant could be made to produce it for your pleasure. But beyond that, the flower head of even the purple colored coneflower seemed to be increasing in size - until all I could see was this gigantic central disc that looked almost as if it had been on growth hormones. So in the end it became to me more a too bold in-your-face sort of flower. Besides another more subtle beauty had caught my attention. I am now spending pleasant hours in the company of the grey-headed coneflower (*Ratibida*



Even though my love affair is over, it's clear that others are still attracted

pinnata) a native of the plains regions. Not even of the same genus but the common name suggests at least some similarities. The gentle droop of this flower with its more vulnerable appearance is infinitely more pleasing to my eye. It is also attracting as many insects as one might wish, being a favorite of bees and butterflies. Songbirds also think this is a great pit stop for food.

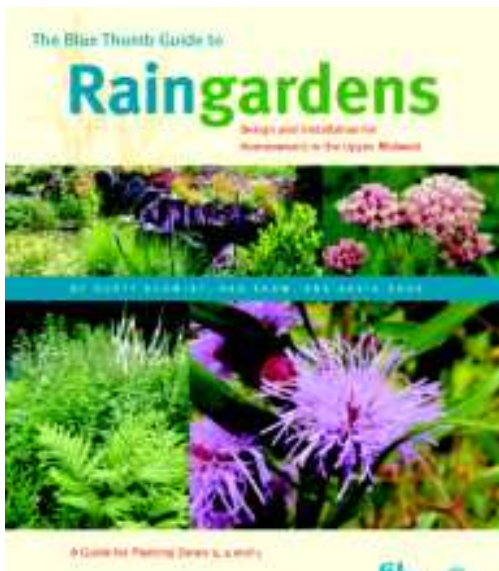
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It is evident to me that, with my increased knowledge of natives and my closer observance of the more natural world around me, my tastes have changed. I am now drawn to the faded purple of the native bee balm as opposed to the bright red cultivars that are found in many a yard. I am more pleased with a garden that is adorned with pastels instead of those eye-catching colors that abound. Not that I am ripping out the few purple coneflowers that have found their way into my yard thanks to the generosity of neighbors. However, given my change in attitude and the fact that it is nigh onto impossible to figure out if that gift from a friendly neighbor can be trusted to be a native or a fake; they are now relegated to a small niche and will be kept here in a limited quantity. From there I can continue to remember them with some fondness as one of the first "native" plants to raise my enthusiasm for the wild things of our area as I move on to fancy other, more subtle species in my garden.

Members Corner

Editor's Note: Got something you want to tell, sell or give away. This space is provided for members who wish to "advertise" anything related to native plants. Some examples of acceptable types of information are plant rescue opportunities, sale of a house that features native plants, plant sales, seminars, and seed/plant give-away. This is offered with the following restrictions

- 1. Each member may enter one "advertisement" per calendar year.*
- 2. The "advertisement" is limited to 75 words or less.*



The Blue Thumb Guide to Raingardens **Design and Installation for Homeowners in the Upper Midwest**

By: Rusty Schmidt, Dan Shaw, and David Dods

Now Available: a homeowners guide to build raingardens. The book is approachable for beginners, yet contains all the detail required to build a raingarden. Including instructions on:

- How to locate, size, and design rain gardens
- Preparing the soil
- Selecting and installing plants
- Care and maintenance
- Example garden plans
- Information on over 100 plants

Available at many Blue Thumb partners offices, via the internet from Terrace Horticultural Books www.terracehorticulturalbooks.com, or www.amazon.com.

Outreach - Wild Ones Call for Ideas & Action!!

“Wild Ones” is becoming a more familiar name than it used to be, but I still talk to many people interested in native plants who have never heard of us. And there are vast numbers of people who have never entertained the idea of landscaping with natives. I think there’s a lot we can do to change that, so I decided to sign up for the chair position for Outreach. I’ll continue to organize our usual displays at expositions and to work to establish contacts with organizations with similar goals, but I’d like to reach out a little farther.

New activities that I think could expand our exposure and lead to more people landscaping with natives are:

- Establishing a speakers’ bureau for presentations to garden clubs, schools, community organizations
- Creating a lending library of good books that members can check out at monthly meetings
- Establishing a list of membership benefits, such as reduction in cost for the Spring Expo, receiving the Wild Ones Journal, access to our (newly created) library, seed exchange, and plant sale
- Working with native plant suppliers to have information about Wild Ones on bulletin boards or at the checkout register
- Creating a list of members who are willing to show their gardens individually to people or visit someone’s garden to help the person get started using natives

I know that people more creative than I have great ideas for how we can expand our influence. I’d love to hear them. If you have the time and interest to add your name to the list for our speakers’ bureau, please let me know.

From: *Kris Martinka* (email address: kmartinka@uswest.net; phone: 612-822-2061)

Welcome New & Renewing Members

As of 1 October 2008 according to the national website, our chapter had 95 active members. Thank you to the recent new and returning members for their support of Wild Ones (see list below of those that joined in recent months). Whether you’ve just joined or have been a member for several years we look forward to your participation. Besides this newsletter, visit us at www.for-wild.org/chapters/twincities <<http://www.for-wild.org/chapters/twincities>>.

Joanne Bednarski, Tori L. & Carrie Christiansen, Anne & Steve Eckhardt, Lois Hall, Anne Hanley, Ardis Jacobson, Carol R & Jack E. Keegan, Chris Nelson, Lynn M Newman, Mary Nolte, Linc & Fran Shea, Becky Wardell-Gaertner, James Wellman, Chester Wilson.

2008 Officers

President: Roberta Moore
Vice-President: Julia Vanatta
Secretary: Mary Schommer
Treasurer: Brent Holm

Board Members

Hospitality: Rose Meyer
Membership: Marty Rice
Merchandise: Trudy Poquette
Newsletter: Mary Schommer
Nokomis Naturescape: Vicki Bonk
Outreach: Kris Martinka
Photographer/Historian: John Arthur
Programs: **Unfilled by end May**/John Arthur
Public Relations: Julia Vanatta
Spring Expo: Kris Martinka/Marty Rice
Tours: Carmen Simonet
Web: Jim Sipe

MEMBERSHIP

Benefits To You

- Monthly meetings featuring excellent presentation on a wide array of native landscaping topics.
- Receive the new member packet, including our handbook full of information and activities on natural landscaping.
- Receive the Wild Ones journal, with articles and information to inspire and educate you about natural landscaping.
- Free admission to Wild Ones' events, such as our garden tours, and native plant walks and sales/swaps.
- Reciprocity with other chapters' meetings.
- Gather and exchange information and expertise with other gardeners of all experience levels.
- Support for the Wild One's Mission.

Join or Renew

1. Sign up at a meetings, or
2. Call Marty Rice at 952-927-6531, or
3. Access the national website at www.for-wild.org



Twin Cities Chapter
c/o Marty Rice
4730 Park Commons Dr. #321
St. Louis Park, MN 55416
www.for-wild.org/chapters/twincities

OUR MISSION

Wild Ones: Native Plants,
Natural Landscapes
promotes environmentally
sound landscaping
practices to preserve
biodiversity through the
preservation, restoration
and establishment of
native plant communities.
Wild Ones is a not-for-
profit environmental